

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11359 01 OF 02 211633Z
ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05
ACDA-12 IO-14 L-03 H-02 /076 W
-----129000 211645Z /61

O 211621Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8259

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR IPGM/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP(ATHERTON,ALFRED L.)

SUBJECT: ATHERTON'S REMARKS TO PRESS

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S
REMARKS TO THE PRESS UPON ARRIVAL AT CAIRO'S AIRPORT
APRIL 21, 1978.

BEGIN TEXT. LET ME JUST SAY VERY BRIEFLY THAT IT IS
ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO RETURN TO CAIRO WHERE WE HAVE SO
MANY FRIENDS AND SO MANY MEMORIES FROM SO MANY PREVIOUS
VISITS. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. VANCE, HAS ASKED
ME TO COME HERE FOR TALKS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT
AS PART OF OUR CONSULTATIONS ABOUT HOW TO MOVE THE
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PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. LET ME JUST EXPAND A LITTLE
BIT ON THAT AND SAY THAT THIS VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN AS
PART OF THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE THAT WE
ARE HAVING WITH THE PARTIES IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE,
AND SPECIFICALLY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS THAT WAS SET IN MOTION BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S
HISTORIC INITIATIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT THAT PEACE PROCESS

AND THOSE NEGOTIATIONS CAN AND MUST GO FORWARD, AND THAT THEY CONTINUE TO OFFER THE BEST PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I LOOK FORWARD VERY MUCH TO MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL FOR DISCUSSIONS, EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ABOUT HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS COMMON OBJECTIVE. AND LET ME JUST SAY IN CONCLUSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REMAINS AS COMMITTED AS EVER TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO FIND WAYS OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD, AND ULTIMATELY ACHIEVING, A JUST AND LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THIS REGION.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE GOING TO ISRAEL SOON?

ATHERTON: WELL, AS I SAID EARLIER, WE ARE ALSO PLANNING TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. WHEN MY ITINERARY WAS ANNOUNCED, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT I WOULD ALSO BE GOING TO ISRAEL. THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL MAY BE VISITING WASHINGTON. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK IN THE PRESS ABOUT THAT ALREADY, I BELIEVE. EXACTLY WHERE THOSE CONSULTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE WILL DEPEND ON THAT, BUT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, WE WILL BE HAVING SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT.

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QUESTION: ARE YOU BRINGING AN INVITATION TO PRESIDENT SADAT TO VISIT PRESIDENT CARTER?

ATHERTON: NO, NO. I'M BRINGING NO INVITATION.

QUESTION: WHEN AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT?

ATHERTON: WELL, I'LL HAVE TO WAIT -- I HAVE JUST ARRIVED -- UNTIL I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND FIND OUT FROM HIM.

QUESTION: DO YOU HOPE TO GET COUNTER-PROPOSALS FROM EGYPT TO THE LATEST ISRAELI PROPOSALS?

ATHERTON: I WANT TO HEAR ANY IDEAS, OF COURSE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT MAY EXPECT TO CONVEY TO ME, BUT BASICALLY I'M HERE SIMPLY AS PART OF THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF EXCHANGING VIEWS, LOOKING FOR NEW IDEAS, NEW WAYS TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE YOUR OWN VIEWS?

ATHERTON: WE ALWAYS HAVE OUR OWN VIEWS.

QUESTION: IS THE U.S. DEVELOPING ANY SORT OF PLAN

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8260
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OR SPECIFIC SOLID PROPOSALS TO GUIDE AN OVERALL
MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT?

ATHERTON: WELL, I'M NOT HERE TO PRESENT ANY PROPOSALS.
WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT, IF AT SOME POINT IN THE
PEACE PROCESS, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR
US TO PUT FORTH OUR OWN IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS WE
WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO.

QUESTION: ISBXTHIS THE POINT?

ATHERTON: I'M NOT PRESENTING ANY POPOSALS O
VISIT, NO. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END TEXT. EILTS

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TAGS: OVIP, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
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